

REMARKS

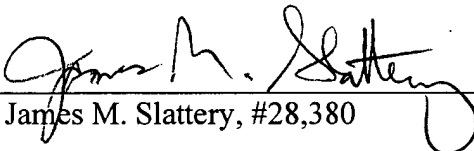
The specification has been amended to provide a cross-reference to the previously filed International Application. The specification has also been amended to correct mistyped text.

Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the application by this Preliminary Amendment.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

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**VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE**

The specification has been amended to provide cross-referencing to the International Application.

**IN THE SPECIFICATION:**

The third paragraph beginning on page 7, lines 18 and 19 , has been amended as follows:

[Fig. 1] 1A-1E shows the steps of the method of permanently compressing lumber of the present invention; [Fig. 2] 2A-2C shows the steps of the method of permanently compressing lumber; Fig. 3 is an ordinary graph of compressibility of lumber; Fig. 4 is an explanation view showing a relationship between heating time and flexural rigidity of lumber; Fig. 5 is an explanation view showing a steam curve in a heating step; Fig. 6 is a graph showing results of a boiling test of a wooden plate which is formed by compressing and heating lumber damaged by pine bark and wood borers; Fig. 7 is a graph showing results of flexural test of the wooden plate which is formed by compressing and heating lumber damaged by pine bark and wood borers; Fig. 8 is a graph showing a relationship between heating time and form-recovery rate of a wooden plate which is cut from an edge portion of white birch lumber; and Fig. 9 is a graph showing a relationship between heating time and the form-recovery rate of a wooden plate which is cut from a core portion of cypress lumber.

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The first complete paragraph beginning on page 8, line 9, has been amended as follows:

An embodiment of the method of permanently compressing lumber of the present invention will be explained with reference to Figs. 1 and 2. [In Fig. 1 and 2] Figs. 1A-1E and 2A-2C, air-dried lumber 10 shown in Fig. 1A is employed as lumber. Percentage of water content of the air-dried lumber 10 is 12 % or less, preferably 5 % or more.

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